

Department of Human Services

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*Important story at this spot

Articles in Today's Clips Wednesday, September 27, 2006

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THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

More evidence needed in child's death

Medical examiner can't say yet if injury to head was intentional or accidental

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

BY SUSAN L. OPPAT

News Staff Reporter

Allison May Newman never really had much of a chance in life.

Born to a mother and father who were admitted cocaine addicts, Allison spent most of her short 21/2 years of life in foster care, first in one home, then another, according to court records.

Allison died last Friday afternoon at the University of Michigan Medical Center, about 14 hours after emergency workers responding to a 911 call found her unconscious in the Canton Township home of her second foster family, police said.

The child died of a "devastating head injury that involved skull fracture and brain injury," caused by "tremendous blunt force," said Washtenaw County Medical Examiner Bader Cassin, who conducted the autopsy.

Cassin said Tuesday he cannot determine without additional evidence whether her death was a homicide or an accident.

No criminal charges have been filed pending further investigation, which police expect to conclude this week.

Canton Township Police Detective Sgt. Rick Pomorski said Allison's foster father was out of town when the toddler was injured and her foster mother was the only adult with Allison that night.

The foster mother has hired a lawyer, police said. She could not be reached by The Ann Arbor News for comment.

According to Wayne County Juvenile Court records, Allison was born in May 2004 and was placed in foster care the following November. Court records show she was taken away because of "physical neglect and failure to protect" after one of her grandmothers reported the parents' drug use.

Her 28-year-old father has since landed in prison for car theft, felonious assault, assaulting a police officer and fleeing and eluding, court records show. Her mother's whereabouts are unknown.

Carolyn McCray-Wilson, from the juvenile court, said it is not clear from Allison's court records why she was still in foster care.

State law requires generally that hearings on termination of parental rights should begin no more than 22 months after a child goes into foster care. Allison had been in foster care for 22 months.

A termination trial scheduled for Sept. 7 was canceled last month, and no new date had been set by the time she died, McCray-Wilson said.

McCray-Wilson said records indicated Allison's parents failed to find suitable housing, jobs with legal income, finish or enroll in drug treatment, or even visit her in foster care.

Don Austin, vice president of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan in Detroit, said Allison was first placed with a family that had already taken foster children and adopted several. He said that family knew the

current foster mother and her husband, and that they wanted to adopt a child.

Allison went to live with the second family in January, after the couple passed background and home checks, and became licensed foster parents. Two months ago, they took in another foster child, a 1-week-old boy.

When a caseworker visited Allison two days before she died, everything seemed fine, Austin said.

But just after 2 a.m. Friday, Allison's 40-year-old foster mother called 911, and reported the toddler was unconscious and not breathing. Rescue workers found obvious head injuries on the child, and took her to Annapolis Hospital. She was airlifted to the U-M Medical Center, where she died later that day, according to Pomorski.

The other foster child in the couple's care was removed from the home as soon as police called Lutheran Social Services early Friday morning, Austin said.

"This is a sad, tragic incident for everyone concerned," Austin said.

"Our aim at (Lutheran Social Services) is to provide safe homes and hopeful futures for children. I wish that we could say that was the case for Allison. Unfortunately, we cannot absolutely prevent something like this from happening."

Susan Oppat can be reached at soppat@annarbornews.com or at 734-482-1166.

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Teen survey results focus of coalition

By Rick Charmoli, Cadillac News

CADILLAC - A local coalition is listening to see what teenagers have to say.

During the summer, the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Wexford and Missaukee counties handed out teen surveys at the Rock at the Dock concert series.

Approximately 205 teens took the survey that contained questions such as, "In your opinion, why are we seeing so many suicides in our area?"

The coalition is scheduled to discuss those results, according to coalition chair and Northern Lake Community Mental Health community treatment program director Mary Hubbard.

"They really got a lot of responses. Teens were real clear with some of the things they wanted," she said. "They are willing to talk to people about what they are thinking and feeling."

In addition to the surveys, the coalition education committee is scheduled to discuss an upcoming community gatekeeper's training on Oct. 27.

A "gatekeeper," in terms of the Suicide Prevention Plan for Michigan, is a person who regularly comes into contact with individuals or families in distress.

They include school counselors, school teachers, parents, siblings, friends, ministers, co-workers and doctors.

"Once someone is identified as 'at risk,' what is the system to respond to the need?" she said. "There is a community education and it will be half the day on Oct. 27."

If a person shares an interest in the topic and wants to be on a local planning team, they may attend the next meeting at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Department of Human Services Clam River Room, 10641 W. Watergate Road (M-55 east) or contact Shari Spoelman at 876-3280 for more information.

rcharmoli@cadillacnews.com | 775-NEWS (6397)

Published September 27, 2006

Mother pleads guilty in '05 death of toddler

By Kevin Grasha
Lansing State Journal

A Lansing woman whose dead 2-year-old son was taken to a hospital last year with broken bones and severe burns has pleaded guilty to charges related to his death.

Cynthia Daniel, 31, faces three to six years in prison for involuntary manslaughter and second-degree child abuse.

Her sentencing is Nov. 8 before Ingham County Circuit Judge Beverley Nettles-Nickerson.

When Daniel's son, Jalyn, was taken to the emergency room in May 2005, he had burn marks on his feet, crushed bones in one hand and the imprint of a household iron on his back and buttocks, prosecutors said, and all of his limbs were in rigor mortis.

Daniel's former live-in boyfriend, Samuel Courtland, 32, of Lansing, is charged with murder and first-degree child abuse. His trial is Oct. 30.

As part of her plea agreement, Daniel must testify against Courtland.

Daniel's attorney, Eric Tomal, said he was satisfied with the plea deal.

"It was a very fair resolution of the situation," Tomal said Tuesday. Daniel initially faced life in prison on murder and first-degree child abuse charges.

Jalyn's cause of death was pneumonia, but expert testimony at a preliminary hearing indicated it was brought on by complications from blunt force trauma. Prosecutors said Courtland beat the child, but Daniel ignored the abuse.

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or kgrasha@lsj.com.

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Article published Sep 27, 2006

Man to stand trial in shaken baby case

A judge on Tuesday ordered a Monroe man to stand trial on charges that he shook his infant daughter and caused near fatal injuries in July.

Antoine Adolphues, 26, of 502 Conant Ave. will stand trial on first-degree child abuse charges. First District Judge Jack Vitale made his decision after three witnesses, include a child abuse expert, testified during a preliminary examination.

"Based on the testimony I've heard today, I do find that child abuse has been committed," Judge Vitale said. "Serious physical harm has been proved."

Mr. Adolphues' daughter, Joishea, now 3 months old, suffered a brain hemorrhage, a skull fracture and other injuries on July 20. A Toledo doctor who specializes in child abuse cases testified Tuesday that the infant was injured due to shaken baby syndrome.

"She suffered abusive head trauma," Dr. Randall Schlievert testified. "It is violence. It had to be severe. There has to be repetitive shaking back and forth. Anybody who would see that happening would say, 'Oh my God that child is in serious danger.' "

But the baby's mother, Feltman (Denise) Rader, had said in a previous Evening News interview that her daughter suffered injures during birth, which led to her having serious health problems that day in July.

Ms. Rader supports Mr. Adolphues, her fiance and the baby's biological father, and does not believe that he hurt their daughter. In a separate interview from the Monroe County jail in August, Mr. Adolphues also denied harming his daughter.

"I would never shake a child," he said.

However, two witnesses who testified on Tuesday indicated otherwise. Monroe police Detective Cpl. Brett Ansel, who investigated the case, took the stand and said that Mr. Adolphues told him in an interview that the baby was crying for days and that he and Ms. Rader did not get much sleep.

On July 20, while Ms. Rader was out, Mr. Adolphues told the detective that he tried to calm the baby down.

"He said it's possible he shook the baby, but he didn't shake the baby too hard," Detective Ansel said. "He wanted to stop the baby from crying."

Dr. Schlievert testified that Joishea, in addition to a brain hemorrhage and skull fracture, also had a hemorrhage in an eye and a swollen brain. The child's head also was struck or something struck it, he said.

Monroe County Assistant Prosecutor Allison Arnold asked Dr. Schlievert if an accident could have caused the injuries.

"I have no reason to believe there was accidental play here," he answered.

Defense attorney Joshua Sacks of Temperance questioned Dr. Schlievert about the possibility of the injuries resulting from childbirth. The doctor testified that the injuries were too fresh and could not have occurred a month prior at birth.

"The brain doesn't swell four weeks later," Dr. Schlievert said.

Ms. Rader testified that her daughter is home and doing well and acting normal. But Dr. Schlievert testified that infants who suffer such serious injuries often face future disabilities that vary in severity. Children with such injuries can develop learning disabilities, seizures or mental retardation.

Mr. Adolphues, who attended the 90-minute hearing wearing a jail uniform, continues to be held in the county jail on a \$500,000 bond. First-degree child abuse carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

Mr. Adolphues is scheduled to appear in Monroe County Circuit Court for an arraignment on Friday.



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Published September 24, 2006

County foster care to undergo dramatic change

By KURT MADDEN
Editor

EATON COUNTY — A dramatic change is underway in how the county is going to place children removed from homes due to neglect or violence.

An attempt is being made to eliminate the practice of placing children in foster care outside their communities and away their relatives, schools, churches, said Maureen Sorbet, a spokesperson for the Eaton County Department of Human Services office.

"The goal will be to keep children removed from their homes in the same communities were they live," Sorbet said.

Currently, 89 children in the county are in foster care.

An effort will be made to recruit families living in the county or find relatives to care for kids DHS removes from their homes.

Often children removed from their mother and father do not understand what happened and why they are not allowed to live with their families.

Eaton County Probate Judge Michael Skinner, whose court oversees the placement of children in foster care, said "this strikes me as a much more coordinated effort, and it takes a team approach by involving all the players in the placement decision."

Skinner said he rarely orders a change in the placement of foster care recommended by the DHS in Eaton County, but he noted that it is a difficult to decided if a child should be with relatives who live across the state or remain in foster care in the county, especial if the child has special needs.

No matter how dysfunctional the family is, the overwhelming number of children tell DHS workers they want to live with their family, state officials say.

Called the Family to Family Initiative, the program will be rolled out in Eaton County beginning with a community forum on Oct. 2.

Sorbet said the special event to signal the change in the way foster care is implemented will take place at the Eaton Intermediate School District, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Don Rewa, the Barry-Eaton DHS director; Julie Wiles, the Barry-Eaton Family to Family coordinator, Eaton County Probate Judge Michael Skinner, Amy Henderson, a foster parent, and

Brandy Hatt, a former foster care recipient, and state Sen. Patti Birkholz are scheduled to speak at the forum.

The program has been successfully implemented in 63 counties across the state, and is now being introduced in the remainder of the counties, Sorbet said.

For many years children were often placed outside their own communities and moved several times while in foster care.

Research on the effect of this practice indicates that children in foster care who have frequent contact with their birth parents, remain in their schools and keep existing friendships and family networks are reunified with their parents much more often, DHS officials say.

The goal of Family to Family is to involve birth parents, foster parents and community representatives in the decision-making for placement.

Key elements of the plan include:

- Increasing family involvement and investment in developing safety and service plans for children;
- Utilizing extended family, kin and community-based resources to support the family;
- Providing better information to DHS staff to ensure all safety issues are addressed and back-up plans are available;
- Keeping the children in the community, their school and with their siblings who know what is "normal" for the child and will be alert to changes that may signal problems;
- Using individualized services to meet a family's unique needs.

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September 27, 2006

Ex-Tiger Young gets probation

Sentence for assaulting a woman includes daily sobriety tests, weekends of community service.

Jennifer Chambers / The Detroit News

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP -- Former Detroit Tiger Dmitri Young publicly apologized to a woman he assaulted in a Birmingham hotel room and promptly left court Tuesday to begin his one-year probation sentence on a domestic violence charge.

Young, a former designated hitter for the Tigers, was accused of assaulting Michelle Schumaker, 21, on April 14 at the Townsend Hotel.

He pleaded no contest to the charge June 27 and altered his plea to guilty Tuesday. He was sentenced to one year probation, three weekends of community service with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and daily sobriety tests. If Young completes all the requirements of probation, his conviction will be dismissed under a state program for first-time offenders in domestic violence cases.

Schumaker told the court she was in love with Young and had an instant connection with him when they started their relationship two years ago.

"Then I woke up in a nightmare with a man I didn't know," Schumaker told 48th District Judge Diane D'Agostini.

Schumaker described her injuries as bruises and scratches and clumps of hair pulled out. She said she decided to report the crime to police because Young had "hit rock bottom that night and he needed a wake-up call he couldn't ignore."

She also criticized Young, 32, for apologizing to "everyone else" but her.

Defense attorney Paul Rinaldi said Young has been told by his attorneys and investigators not to contact the victim, adding that Young has tremendous remorse for the incident.

Young told the judge: "This has been one of the worst years of my life. I went through a divorce, this incident happened, I got released from the Tigers. I remain sober."

He then asked D'Agostini for permission to turn and look at Schumaker.

"Michelle, I'd like to apologize for what happened, and I wish you the best of luck," he said.

D'Agostini denied Young's request to complete probation in his home state of California or to visit his children and family in Florida.

She said she would consider the request after Young schedules his community service days and finds a facility outside Michigan to take his daily Breathalyzer tests.

You can reach Jennifer Chambers at (248) 647-7402 or jchambers@detnews.com.

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Police stop enraged boyfriend from committing suicide

Man accused of pointing shotgun at pregnant girlfriend

Journal Register News Service

HOLLY -- An incident of domestic violence almost turned deadly Tuesday on a usually placid street in Holly Township -- and not just for the victim, but for the suspect as well.

Neighbors in the 100 block of Second Street witnessed a 38-year-old pregnant woman flee her home to escape an enraged boyfriend who not only physically assaulted her, but also pointed a 12-gauge shot gun at her head.

Those same neighbors said it was the skill and patience of the Village of Holly Police Department that saved the woman's life and prevented the 36-year-old suspect from committing suicide.

"They did everything the right way," said Russ Wilson, 63, who actually called police for the woman after she ran to his home for help. "They were lucky to have (Holly Police Sergeant) Scott Fischer. He was the one who talked the guy down. It must have taken hours before Fischer was able to gain his confidence ... but he did everything by the books and was able to get the guy to surrender without killing himself."

Holly police officers responded to the scene around 3 p.m. where they located the woman at Wilson's home with physical signs of abuse. According to police, the woman, who is three months pregnant, said she had been assaulted, pushed and threatened with a gun by her boyfriend.

Officers then surrounded her home and called out to the man. He answered the door with the shotgun, eventually put it in his mouth and threatened suicide. After more than an hour of trying to calm the man down, Holly Police Chief Rollie Gackstetter deployed support from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Special Response Unit. The Michigan State Police also provided assistance.

In the end, Sgt. Fischer was able to negotiate a surrender. The suspect was taken into custody and faces felony domestic assault

charges. The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Both the suspect and the victim are residents of Holly. Neighbors said the couple only lived in the home for about a year and a half and didn't appear to have any problems before Tuesday.

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Young gets probation, apologizes for assault

Of The Oakland Press

Former Detroit Tiger Dmitri Young, saying the past year has been the worst of his life, apologized to his former girlfriend and accepted his sentence on domestic violence charges.

Tuesday's sentence of 12 months of probation caps a year in which Young was charged with the 93-day misdemeanor, sought treatment for substance abuse and was fired from the Tigers organization - weeks before the Major League Baseball team clinched its first playoff berth in 19 years.

"Sobriety is tough," Young said. "I just want to move forward with my life."

Young assaulted 21-year-old Michelle Schumaker of Toledo in the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham on April 14. Schumaker said Tuesday that the couple had dated two years and she was in love with Young until that night, when he choked and beat her, ripping her dress and smashing her cell phone.

"He has publicly apologized to everyone except me," she said. "It seems he has no remorse."

Under the terms of his plea - Young had pleaded no contest in June to the charges but changed that plea to guilty Tuesday before 48th District Judge Diane D'Agostini. The charge will be dismissed if he successfully completes the terms of his probation. Young was required to change the plea so he could be eligible for the dismissal.

Young could have received up to 93 days in jail.

"I think the judge sentenced him appropriately," said Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Tare Wigod.

Schumaker also told D'Agostini that she agreed with the sentence. She said the assault has been stressful, affecting her relationships with friends and family members. It has changed her life and

tested her strength, she said. She has ended her relationship with Young, she said, and did not come forward with allegations of the assault for attention or revenge.

"I did it because it was the right thing to do," she said. Schumaker declined further comment after the sentencing.

In court, she told the judge that she hopes Young receives help and counseling.

"He has a long journey ahead to become the best man he can be," she said.

Young's attorney, Paul Rinaldi, said his client had not yet apologized to Schumaker because he was ordered by the court to not contact her. He said his client had a clean record before the charge and is working to change his life.

"He's had genuine remorse for this situation," Rinaldi said.

Young, 32, apologized to the court and to Schumaker: "Michelle, I'd like to apologize for what happened. I wish you the best of luck."

D'Agostini denied a request by Young to continue his probation in California. She also said she would not immediately allow him to travel to Florida to visit his children. Young and his wife divorced earlier this year.

Young, a designated hitter in his fifth season with the Tigers, was released by the organization Sept. 6. He spent several weeks in a treatment facility this summer for substance abuse.

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16 when he raped, murdered girl, teen gets life sentence

Defense says he never should have been tried as adult

PUBLISHED: September 27, 2006

By Chad Halcom
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

A 17-year-old Warren man may be the youngest Macomb County defendant to be prosecuted and convicted as an adult for first-degree murder, and to receive the accompanying mandatory life sentence under a set of laws adopted a handful of years ago.

Nathaniel Gilbert received the automatic life imprisonment without parole Tuesday at his sentencing before Macomb County Circuit Judge Mary A. Chrzanowski in the November rape and murder of 14-year-old Heaven La-Talier. He was 16 at the time of the crime.

"The tragedy of the situation for my client is that he ever had to be tried as an adult to begin with," said Raymond Ruemenapp, Gilbert's defense attorney, after the sentencing. "We treat kids more and more like adults in the legal system despite evidence that their minds don't work like adults yet. These cases should still be discretionary."

A jury convicted Gilbert of first-degree felony murder and third-degree criminal sexual conduct in La-Talier's death at Warren Regency apartments. Many categories of crimes, even murder, used to be chargeable either as adult or juvenile crimes in Gilbert's age range until the Michigan Legislature changed the laws after the Nathaniel Abraham case of the 1990s.

Abraham was convicted of second-degree murder in the 1997 shooting death of Ronnie Lee Greene, 18, outside a convenience store in Pontiac when Abraham was only 11. Though convicted as an adult, he was sentenced as a juvenile and will be freed from all state supervision when he turns 21 on Jan. 19, 2007.

Ruemenapp said Gilbert and his family will mount an appeal, and it will be up to another attorney to find some error in the trial. But Therese Tobin, chief trial attorney for Macomb County prosecutors, said she is confident the conviction and sentence will stand up to appeal.

"I'm sure there are going to be some errors. I make mistakes. Little mistakes occur in almost every trial," she said. "But a defendant's not entitled to a trial without any errors, and I'm confident no error in this case would warrant a new trial."

It's a case that's drawn emotion from both sides, as Gilbert's mother, Linda, a Detroit police officer, has apologized to the victim's family. Officials said the La-Talier family has also been eloquent in expressing their hurt and loss.

The charges resulted from Nathaniel Gilbert having sex with and strangling La-Talier between 11:30 p.m. Nov. 17 and shortly after midnight Nov. 18. He disposed of her mostly unclothed body next to a trash bin in the parking lot of the apartment complex where both teens lived at the time. The body was found the next morning.

Gilbert, who initially comforted friends and family with assurances the girl would be all right, according to prosecutors, was later questioned by police and changed his story at least once.

He initially denied involvement and tried to implicate another teenage male who was with them earlier in the night. He then admitted involvement after police presented him with Heaven's pants found in the garbage at his apartment. He said that after nearly accidentally killing her, he got scared and finished killing her.

Some evidence in the trial suggested Gilbert had a history of depression and may have even confided in a La-Talier family member about it; but there was no indication of insanity or an inability to defend himself at trial. Instead the defense tried to argue he should have been convicted on the lesser second-degree murder charge; but prosecutors said the evidence pointed to a deliberate killing as well as an attempt to avoid responsibility for it afterward.

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Much more than just child care

County group meets adult needs, too

BY SUZETTE HACKNEY

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

September 27, 2006

As the weather cools, Ara Greer begins to think about the realities of paying her heating bills on a fixed income.

But this winter, she'll be armed with knowledge.

Greer is smarter about her finances because she attended a workshop last year sponsored by the Child Care Coordinating Council of Detroit/Wayne County. Even Greer was surprised that such an organization, which is known as 4C, would sponsor forums on budgeting and money matters.

But the purpose of 4C is much broader than coordinating child care. Its goal is to touch the lives of as many Wayne County families -- and children -- as possible. The organization is a countywide child education and advocacy organization with eight separate locations and offices within every Department of Family Services building.

The group is celebrating its 36th anniversary next month with a gala at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit.

From money seminars to clothing and crib drives, the nonprofit 4C works to offer quality environments for all children, and to train parents to create strong family units and encourage the development of children to their full potential and well being.

"Along with adults, it's a good idea to teach children the basics about finances, saving their money and the pitfalls of having credit cards because they don't know anything and they end up in trouble," said Greer, 61, a resident of Detroit's west side who hasn't worked since 1996 because she has degenerative arthritis. "The council has a lot of good programs, and a lot of people feel blessed because they are learning something that is going to change their lives."

Changing lives is what has kept 4C Executive Director Carole Jasper Quarterman in her position for the last 25 years. The mission has gotten a little easier over the years -- the council received a \$4-million grant from the Kellogg Foundation and a \$6-million Empowerment Zone grant from the city. Officials say the constant quest for support is worth the challenge, especially when the needs of another child have been met.

Last year, more than 20,000 parents, namely single mothers, called the agency resource and referral



Denise Wellons-Glover, right, project director of the Family Place, one of 4C's off-site centers, tells her staff about the Dollar Wise program.

Looking for help?

For more information, call the council at 313-259-4411.

Much more than just child care

services seeking care for about 40,000 children from the ages of birth to 12.

Some of the council's initiatives include:

- Training child care workers.
- Linking parents with licensed day care providers.
- Instructing parents on how to remain involved with day care providers.
- Providing limited day care funds to parents in crisis.
- Lobbying for better wages for child care providers and for accessible, safe, high-quality child care for all children.
- Getting Wi-Fi Internet access for a large area of the city's north side to help bridge the digital divide.
- Organizing foster care recruitment and retention services, along with birth parent improvement courses, to ultimately get the child back with his parent.

"Our phones are ringing off the hook right now because it's getting cold," Quarterman said. "We are getting people who need help with rental assistance and utilities."

Greer, whose two children are grown, wants to celebrate 4C's involvement in the community. She can relate so well to many of the parents' plights, and remembers her struggles as a single mother. She's thankful that the new generation has a community resource such as 4C.

"These people can really become a part of your life," she said.

Contact **SUZETTE HACKNEY** at 313-222-6614 or shackney@freepress.com.

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Michigan Report

September 26, 2006

REPORT SAYS MEDICAID COSTS GROWING FOR STATES

Medicaid costs are now the highest average budgetary costs for the states, a report from Standard & Poor's said, and that percentage is expected to grow as the population ages and as the federal government cuts back on its share of Medicaid payments.

While the percentage of state budgets spent on Medicaid varies from a low of 4.6 percent in Wyoming to 35.2 percent in Tennessee, the S&P report said the average spent per state on Medicaid is 22 percent.

The average each state spends on education – both K-12 and higher education – is 21 percent of its total budget, the report said.

That average percentage is expected to grow for two main reasons: the aging of the population and a federal law that will result in a cutback in the amount the federal government contributes to Medicaid costs.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that some 70 percent of Medicaid costs go to health care costs, especially long term health costs through nursing homes, for the elderly, the report said.

That percentage of costs is striking since currently the elderly will make up an estimated 6 percent of the estimated 60 million people on Medicaid in 2007. Children make up 28.7 percent of the population, the largest percentage.

Both the elderly and children are expected to grow as an overall part of the population, the report said, though the elderly will grow at a faster rate. By 2015, children will be 29.4 percent of the Medicaid population and the aged will be 7.5 percent.

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A goal we can, should reach

[The Huron Daily Tribune](#)
09/26/2006

Think homelessness is a big city issue? Think again.

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Homelessness is a very real problem here in the Upper Thumb. Often the problem goes unnoticed by many because it's not as visible as perhaps what you find in more metropolitan areas. Many times families are staying with relatives or friends on a temporary or rotating basis. Sometimes they stay in their car. And officials report seeing an increase in the number of teenagers who are homeless. Just because you don't see people sleeping on park benches or huddled beneath business awnings doesn't mean the problem is any less serious.

Representatives from Huron and Tuscola counties have been working together to create a 10-year plan to end homelessness. The work began after the Michigan State Housing Development Authority asked the Department of Human Services to develop a state plan to end homelessness in 10 years. It is an important goal because not only is it noble, but it provides a timeline and urgency to a serious problem — one that we can solve.

The 10-year plan will serve as a basis for setting priorities and allocating resources. And there's no doubt the hard work of volunteers will continue to help those who are homeless help

Pa

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themselves. Hand outs aren't distributed, but plenty of helping hands are extended. And that's the way it should be.

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Published September 17, 2006

EightCAP begins child food program

IONIA — EightCAP, Inc. Head Start program announces the sponsorship of the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

This program is designed primarily to provide meals to children in child care centers, outside school hours programs, and family day care homes. Free "A" and reduced price "B" meals are available to all children 12 years of age or under, migrant children 15 years of age or under, and older disabled children meeting the approved eligibility criteria (see below), enrolled in EightCAP, Inc Head Start. Children who are members of FIP assistance units or food stamps households are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD.) USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If a child's family's income falls below the following guidelines, his/her meals are eligible for free or reduced price reimbursement.

Free - "A"

Family size Income

1 \$12,740

2 \$17,160

3 \$21,580

4 \$26,000

Each additional family member add \$4,420.

Reduced price - "B"

Family size Income

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1 \$18,130

2 \$24,420

3 \$30,710

4 \$37,000

Each additional familky member add \$6,290

For more information, please contact EightCAP, Inc at (616) 754-9315..

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7 charged with Katrina fraud

BY DAVID ASHENFELTER

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

September 27, 2006

Seven people, three of them from Detroit, appeared in U.S. District Court in Detroit on Tuesday on charges of defrauding the Federal Emergency Management Agency after the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Pamela Reason, 45, and Curtistine Ingram, 52, both of Detroit; Andrea Reason, 53, and Dwight Reason, 35, both of Bloomington, Ind., and Patricia Hubbard, 48, of Bude, Miss., conspired to obtain \$13,074 for property damage, even though none of them lived in the Gulf Coast area. They allegedly used the money to buy clothes, cars and drugs, the government said.

Krystal Young, 21, of Detroit was charged with mail fraud for allegedly obtaining \$12,749 in FEMA assistance that she used to buy a car and pay living expenses.

Krystal Hubbard, 23, of Southfield was charged with wire fraud for allegedly obtaining \$2,000 she didn't deserve, the government said.

The defendants were freed on unsecured bonds following brief court appearances. A preliminary examination was set for Oct. 16.

Wire and mail fraud carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Conspiracy carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Contact **DAVID ASHENFELTER** at 313-223-4490 or ashenf@freepress.com.

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Sheriff proposes expansion of jail

By SHAWNA JANKOVIAK

Tribune Staff Writer

CHEBOYGAN - Cheboygan County Sheriff Dale Clarmont on Tuesday presented a proposal for a short-term, six- to eight-bed jail expansion/renovation to the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners.

Although Tuesday's meeting was not an action meeting and a motion to take action will not be made until the Board of Commissioners Oct. 10 meeting, Clarmont presented the panel with the details of his proposal.

He said the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department Jail has been at or near capacity for the last several months. His proposal is intended to address the issue on a short-term basis until a decision is made on a major Cheboygan County Building and jail expansion/renovation, he noted.

Clarmont said inmate liability for the county is a concern and that housing them somewhere else is an expensive alternative. He estimated a \$46,000 cost to the county for the project but said he anticipates that being absorbed within a six-month period.

He attributed population and a growth in substance abuse to increased sentencings.

In other business:

€Michigan State University Extension Director Ben Bartlett gave an annual report on his department.

€Department of Human Services Director Ken DesArmo presented a request for funding for the Cheboygan County homemaker position.

€A 2007 preliminary budget update was given.

The next meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 10 in room 135 of the Cheboygan County Building.

www.michigan.gov

(To Print: use your browser's print function)

Contact: Lori Donlan (517) 373-9280

Agency: Labor & Economic Growth

Release Date: September 27, 2006

Last Update: September 27, 2006

Governor Granholm and the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth Announce Jobs, Education, and Training Pilot Program Awards

September 27, 2006 – Governor Granholm and the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) today announced awards totaling \$1,173,930 to five Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) for the Jobs, Education, and Training (JET) Pilot Program.

"The JET Pilot Program is a win-win," Granholm said. "For welfare recipients, it's an opportunity to qualify for – and keep – good paying jobs, and for Michigan's businesses, JET is supporting the workforce and skill needs they have today and for the future."

The JET Pilot Program is a partnership between the Department of Human Services, DLEG and, the MWAs. The goal of the JET Pilot Program is to connect Michigan's families with the kind of jobs, education, and training opportunities that will help them achieve self-sufficiency and meet the workforce and skill needs of Michigan's businesses. The JET Pilot Program has fewer restrictions than Work First and was designed to give the MWAs more flexibility in providing services to public assistance recipients.

"The Jobs, Education and Training approach fundamentally changes the way we move families off welfare and toward self-sufficiency," Marianne Udow, director of Michigan Department of Human Services, said. "Instead of telling welfare recipients to 'get a job, any job,' the program supports them in developing job skills that help them move out of poverty."

Funding for the JET Pilot Program is provided by the State of Michigan and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is administered by DLEG.

DLEG Director Robert W. Swanson said, "JET is one of several initiatives in the Governor's Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow plan to promote economic and workforce development and increase jobs to transform Michigan's economy. Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow plan is beginning to see results by attracting new businesses and growing our economy. The Governor is continually improving our business climate and providing a skilled workforce to make our state more attractive to businesses such as Google so they'll locate and expand and create jobs here."

A table is attached with the specific funding amounts for each MWA. To view an interactive map of the state's 25 Michigan Works! regions and the counties included in each region, go to <http://www.michiganworks.org>.

The Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) is investing in Michigan's future by helping to create the jobs of today and tomorrow, ensuring that our children and adults have the skills these jobs demand, making Michigan a better place to do business, and training and placing those who need jobs now.

Jobs, Education, and Training (JET) Pilot Program Allocations

<u>Michigan Works! Agency</u>	<u>\$</u>
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Area Community Service Employment and Training (ACSET) Council	565,270
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Detroit Workforce Development Department, A Michigan Works! Agency	383,040
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Oakland County Michigan Works! Workforce Development Division	119,860
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Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) Michigan Works!	95,760
Thumb Area Michigan Works! Employment and Training Consortium	10,000
Total	1,173,930

[Read more Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth press releases.](#)

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